

CHRISTIAN LIBERTY

1 Cor 8:1-7

Weaker brother attaches himself to standards without Biblical foundation.

Our approach:

What does Word of God say

Have I submitted to authority of Word?

Many of these issues can be confronted with chapter and verse...others by Biblical principles.

Gray areas--issues that committed Christians may believe are OK

Other committed Christians believe are sin.

Key: Does God's Word address it specifically or does God's Word address it in principle?

Issue: Should a Christian eat meat offered to idols?

Bigger issue: Is there a bigger issue

Places to purchase meat:

1. Market place
2. Temple butchery

Meat in temples considerably cheaper ...same quality ...better quality.

Polytheism – worship of many gods.

Polydemonistic – air filled with demons.

Offer good meat on altars to demons

Believed in demon--possessed meat.

When Jew brought meat offering/sacrifice to temple, the Priest :

1. Burn 1/3
2. Keep 1/3
3. Give back 1/3

Priests take meat to temple butchery

Socially acceptable among pagans

Christians of all maturity levels.

Just saved and starting to assimilate truth

Saved long time but still sucking bottle

Mature believers able to digest deeper doctrines

Many saved out of occult.

1 Corinthians 8:1

Puffeth up: to blow, inflate, make proud, cause to swell.

Know-it-alls.

Look down nose at people ...

Paul not praising ignorance.

Knowledgeable people in church in Corinth-- bully less knowledgeable believers.

Result: immature believers caused to stumble

Mature believers--strong in theology/weak in love.

Mac: ...*strong in self-love but weak in brotherly love.*

charity edifieth: builds up and encourages

Our responsibility--committed to process!

Wiersbe: *You don't always solve a problem with logic. ... Knowledge can be a weapon to fight with or a tool to build with, depending on how it is used. If it "puffs up" then it cannot "build up (edify).*

1 Corinthians 8:2 ...*he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know.*

Moment we think we have arrived-- a manifestation of our ignorance.

Knowledge is the *process of passing from the unconscious state of ignorance to the conscious state of ignorance.*

Mac: *Ignorance does not know that it does not know. True knowledge does not know and knows it.*

1 Corinthians 8:3 If truly love God, then open to true knowledge He has to give you.

If genuinely love God then evidenced by love for others... immature believers.

Only way we make God visible to world is by manifesting His love. **1 John 4:12**

Love sets the boundaries on your Christian liberty.

1 Corinthians 8:4 ...*idol is nothing in the world*, Materials are real but no god in them. 1 Cor 10:20

and that there is none other God but one. An idol is not really God ... only one true God.

1 Corinthians 8:5 In midst of a polytheistic environment.

1 Corinthians 8:6 *But to us there is but one God*, We are monotheists
the Father, relational title

of whom are all things, He is source of all things.

and we in him; We owe our existence to Him.

Our goals and purposes in life ought to be for His glory

Lord: proprietor, ruler, governor, king.

by whom are all things, through His agency. Colossians 1:16 John 1:3

and we by him. We are alive today because of Him

Mac: *This is a powerful and clear affirmation of the equality of essence of God, the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

1 Corinthians 8:7 *Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge*

Not all believers understand this.

Mac: *They knew that there is only one right God but perhaps they had not yet fully grasped the truth that there is only one real God.*

for some with conscience of the idol .

When eat food offered to idols, they think worshipping real gods.

Result: conscience is violated if eat meat.

Conscience: to know with...32X in NT.

Wiersbe: *Conscience is that internal court where our actions are judged and are either approved or condemned (Rom 2:14-15). Conscience is not the law; it bears witness to God's moral law. But the important thing is this: conscience depends on knowledge...*

The more spiritual knowledge we obtain and act upon, the more discernment we will have.

Weak conscience: without strength, feeble, impotent, sick

Defiled soiled, made dirty, injured.

Romans 14:23 *And he that doubteth is damned if he eat...*

Condemned conscience means compromise of faith

Results in committing sin.

Result: guilt, loss of joy, no peace...no desire for God

...conscience being weak is defiled. So offended in their spirit because of a feeble and impotent conscience.

Give them time to grow and their conscience won't be defiled by this.

Give more knowledge and more spiritual depth and discernment--won't be convicted about this.

The more you grow, spiritually, the more of Word understand.

More of Word understand

More able to see bigger picture.

More spiritually mature

More committed to process.

Rules, standards and convictions become more biblical

Able to see things from wider and godly perspective.

Issue to Paul not meat offered to idols.

Real issue: older, more spiritually mature Christians in church who saw whole picture, doctrinally, hadn't see whole picture, spiritually.

Not realize the bigger issue of love.

SO WHAT?

Our approach to rules:

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Our responsibility--committed to process!

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